



Tuolumne County Veterans Service Office

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Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

By:  Clerk

23 August 2017


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Veterans Service Officer
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Honorable Kate Powell Segerstrom, Judge of the Superior Court,

Good day. This letter is in response to the 2016-2017 Tuolumne County Grand Jury Report with regard to the Tuolumne County Veterans Service Office. Each finding and recommendation is listed below with the appropriate reply.

F22. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires regular software and Operating System (OS) maintenance, as well as regular review and auditing to remain in compliance with steep penalties for failure.

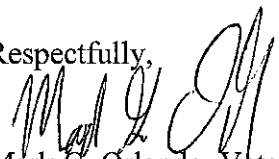
RESPONSE: Agree

R22. Create, maintain and observe a policy and procedure for HIPAA compliance. Each affected Department should be aware of their obligations and actively participate and pursue full compliance. (F22)

RESPONSE: Measures are currently in place IAW HIPPA compliance. As accredited agents recognized and trained by both the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA), each staff member participates in annual VA Privacy and Information Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior training. Successful completion of this training is required in order to maintain accreditation with CDVA. This is in addition to two annual training conferences in which privacy training is conducted and emphasized. Strict adherence to VA/CDVA policy is the practice in this office and precludes the need for any locally generated policy guidance.

Please contact the office with any questions or if there is a need for further clarification. The hard work and diligence of the Grand Jury is tremendously appreciated.

Respectfully,


Mark G. Orlando, Veterans Service Officer


Michelle McMaster, Senior Veterans Services Representative